MARVEL LEGACY FIRE FROM HEAVEN PART 1

9

ROYALS

EWING
RODRIGUEZ
LÓPEZ
BELLAIRE

EXPERIMENTED UPON LONG AGO BY ALIENS KNOWN AS THE KREE, *THE INHUMANS* ARE A RACE OF SUPER-BEINGS WHO CAN UNLOCK AMAZING ABILITIES VIA THE MYSTERIOUS ELEMENT *TERRIGEN*.

BUT AFTER LEARNING THAT TERRIGEN WAS POISONING EARTH'S MUTANT POPULATION, THE QUEEN OF THE INHUMANS, *MEDUSA*, DESTROYED ALL TRACES OF IT, MEANING THERE WILL BE NO MORE NEW INHUMANS. HEAVY WITH GUILT, MEDUSA ABDICATED THE THRONE—LEAVING THE INHUMANS WITHOUT THEIR ROYAL FAMILY.

BUT IF THE ROYALS CAN NO LONGER RULE INHUMANITY...THEY CAN STILL SAVE IT.

ROYALS

MEDUSA

MAXIMUS

CRYSTAL

GORGON

SWAIN

MARVEL BOY

FLINT

HEADSHOT ART BY JUAN DOE

MARVEL BOY RECRUITED THE ROYAL FAMILY AND A COUPLE NEW INHUMANS TO FIND A WAY TO RESTORE THE INHUMAN RACE. THEY BEGAN ON HALA, THE KREE HOMEWORLD, WHERE THEY LEARNED OF THE EXISTENCE OF PRIMAGEN, THE TERRIGEN-LIKE CATALYST THAT MADE THE KREE. TO FIND IT AND ITS PROGENITORS, THE ROYALS WENT TO CENTAURI-IV, THE NEW HOME OF THE UNIVERSAL INHUMANS. LIKE EARTH, CENTAURI-IV HELD A SKYSPEAR: ONE OF SEVERAL DEADLY OBELISKS THAT LANDED NEAR INHUMAN POPULATION CENTERS MONTHS AGO.

AFTER TOUCHING ONE, MARVEL BOY REALIZED THE SKYSPEARS ARE ADVANCED COMPUTERS—AND THAT THE ROYALS CAN TRACK THEIR FLIGHT PATHS BACK TO THEIR CREATORS. BUT BEFORE THEY COULD ACT, WARMONGERING SNARKS ATTACKED. THEY STOLE THE ROYALS' POWERS, BUT FLINT USED THE SKYSPEAR TO REGAIN HIS, SINGLE-HANDEDLY ENDING THE FIGHT. THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF HIS POWER BOOST REMAIN TO BE SEEN.

IN THE AFTERMATH, MEDUSA AND GORGON KISSED, ACTING ON LONG-HIDDEN DESIRES. NOW, THE ROYALS GO TO FIND THEIR DESTINY—AND A WAY TO SAVE THEIR FORMER QUEEN, WHO IS DYING OF A STRANGE DISEASE.

THOUSANDS OF YEARS IN THE FUTURE, THE PROGENITORS ARE RETURNING, AND ONLY THE LAST INHUMAN—A WORN MAXIMUS THE MAD—AND THE ACCUSER—AN OLDER NOH-VARR—STAND IN THEIR WAY.

[WARNING! THIS ISSUE CONTAINS MILD SPOILERS FOR BLACK BOLT #6 - SO IF YOU BOUGHT BOTH TODAY, READ THAT FIRST!]

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FIVE THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW.

BEHOLD THE KING OF THE MOON.

On The Other Side

AL EWING writer JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ penciler ÁLVARO LÓPEZ inker
JORDIE BELLAIRE colorist VC's CLAYTON COWLES letterer

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JOE QUESADA chief creative officer DAN BUCKLEY president ALAN FINE exec. producer INHUMANS created by STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

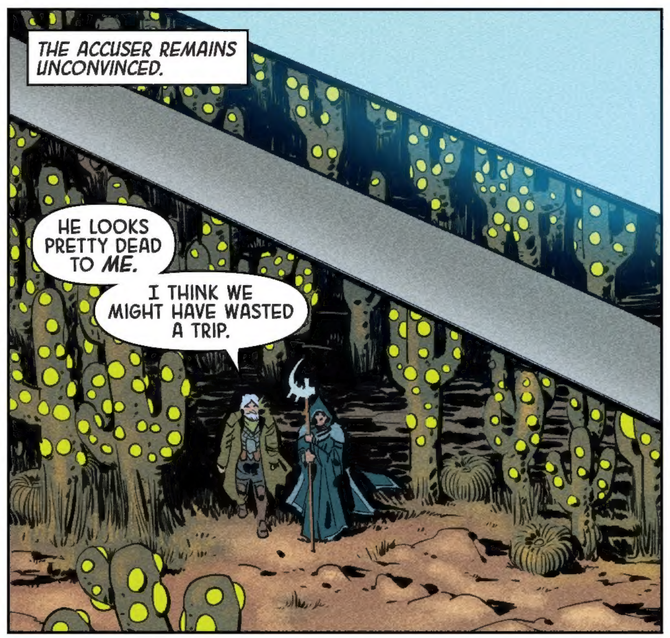
IN THE ANCIENT MYTHS OF ARCTILAN, THE MOON-KING FELL AS A SPEAR FROM THE SKY ON THE DAY OF THE LAST BATTLE, TO BREAK THE FINAL SEAL AND END THE AEON OF HEROES.

THE LAST INHUMAN NOTES THAT THE CRYSTAL HAS GROWN VISIBLY SINCE HE LAST SAW IT, MILLENNIA AGO.

A GOOD SIGN.

...

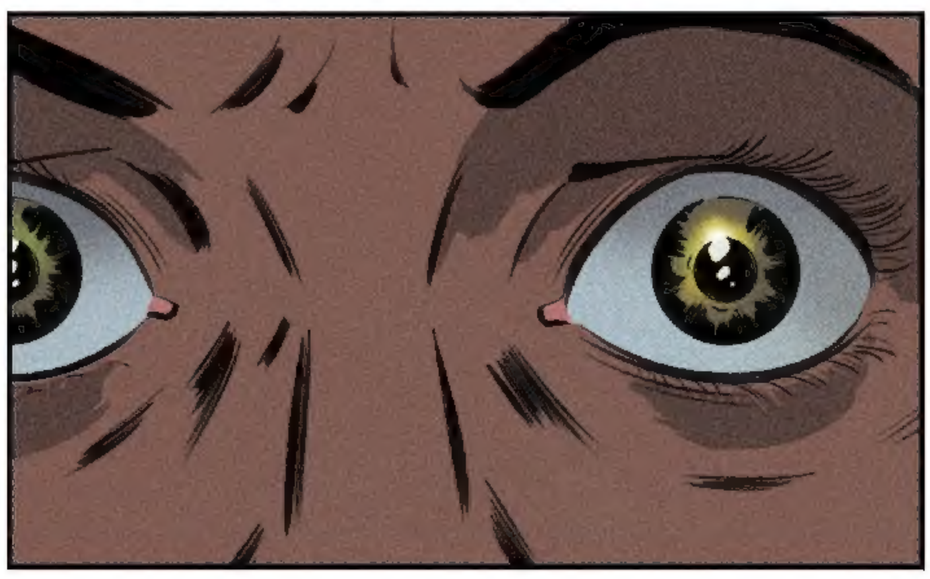
I DON'T KNOW, MAGE.



"OPEN YOUR EYES."

NOW.
ABOARD THE ASTARION.
FLINT'S QUARTERS.

WHAT THE HELL...?



GONE.

IF IT WAS EVER THERE AT *ALL.*

...

SURE, FLINT, SURE. JUST A TRICK OF THE LIGHT.

AFTER ALL, IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING *ELSE* WEIRD IS HAPPENING TO YOU...

...RIGHT?

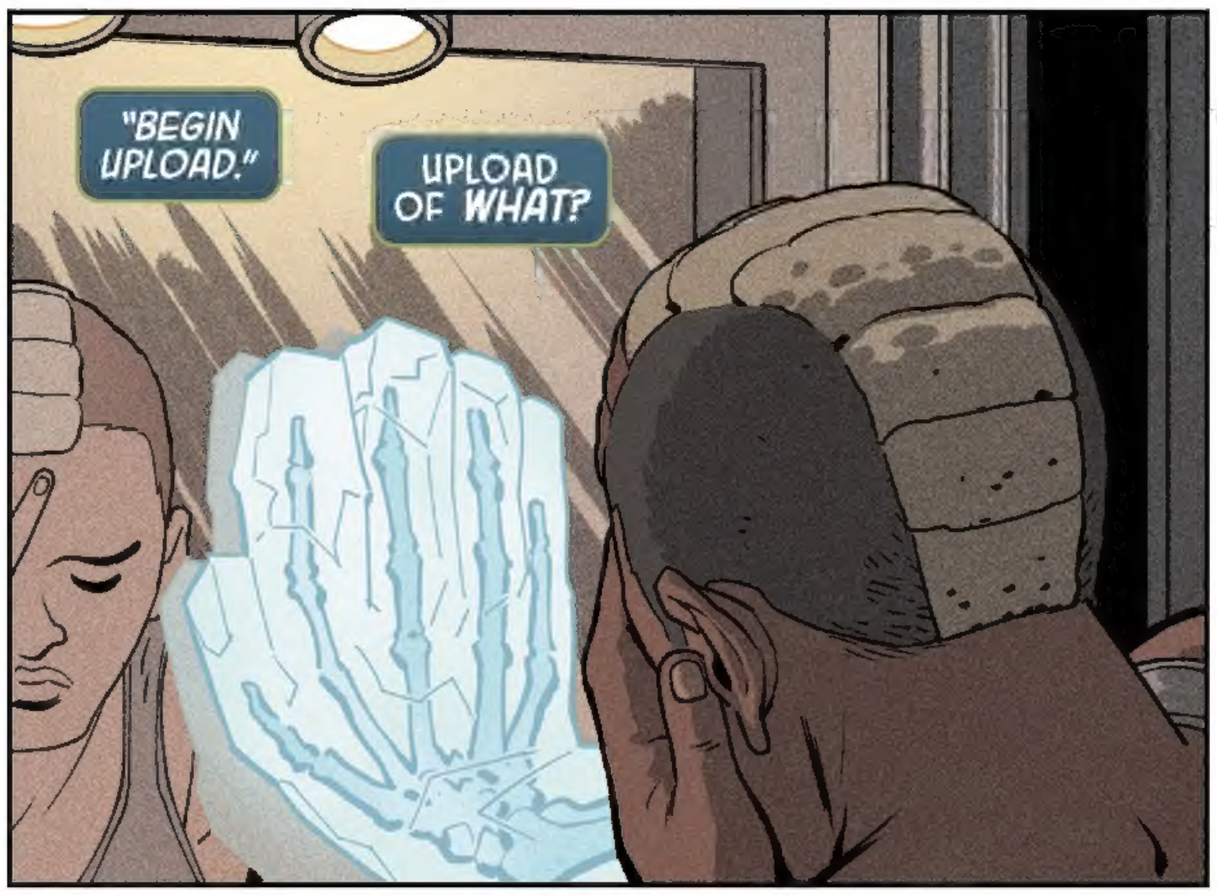
IT'S SPREADING. EVER SINCE I TOUCHED THAT ALIEN *SKYSPEAR*...

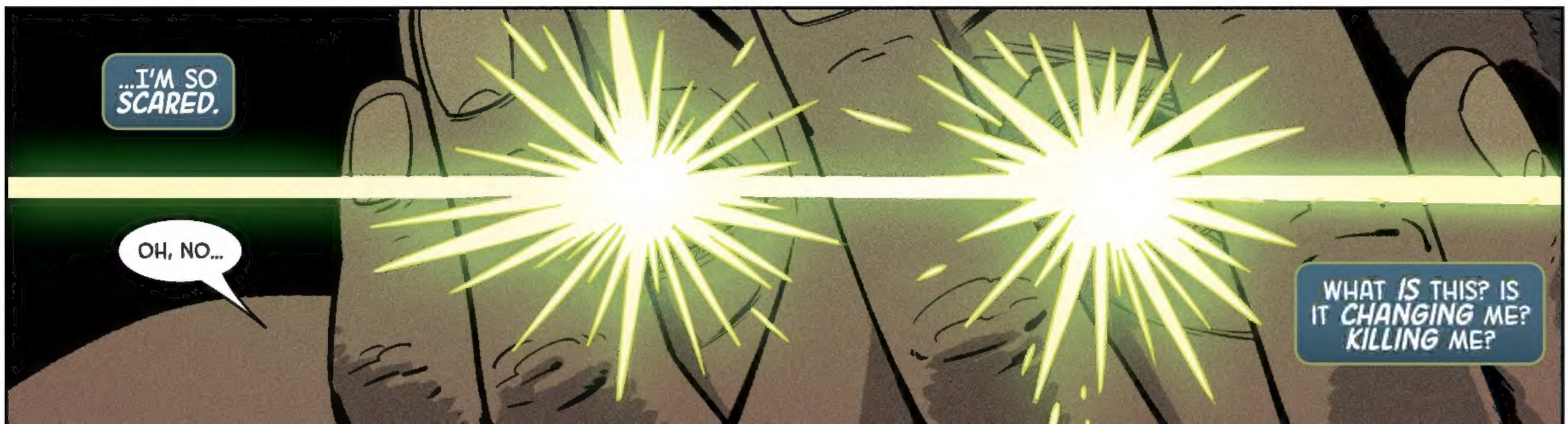
SPECIES OUTSIDE PROGRAM LIMIT

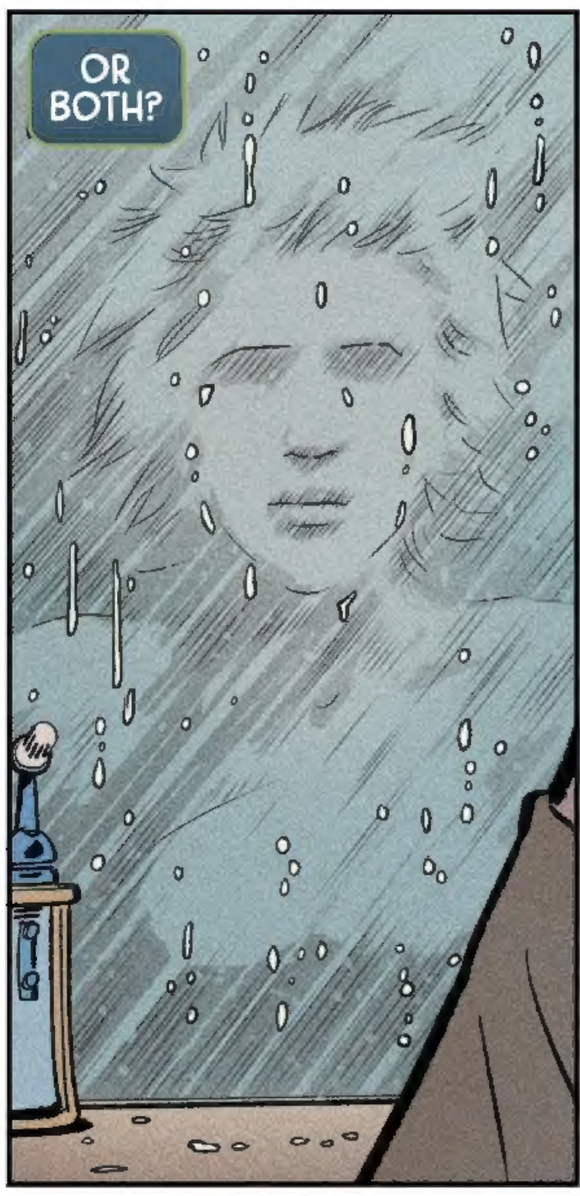
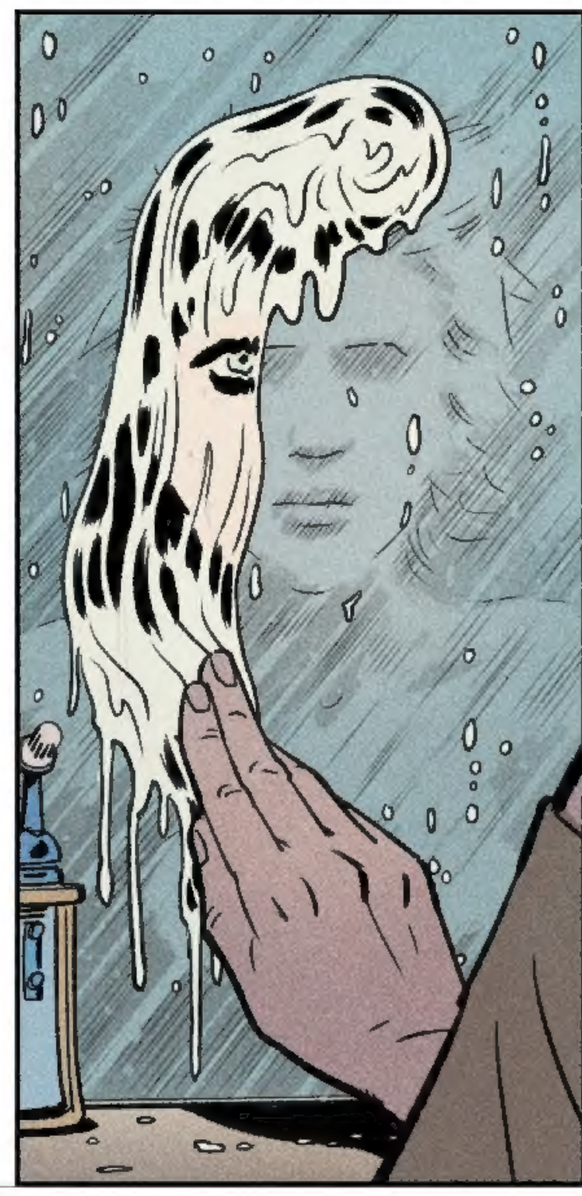
RUN PARTIAL

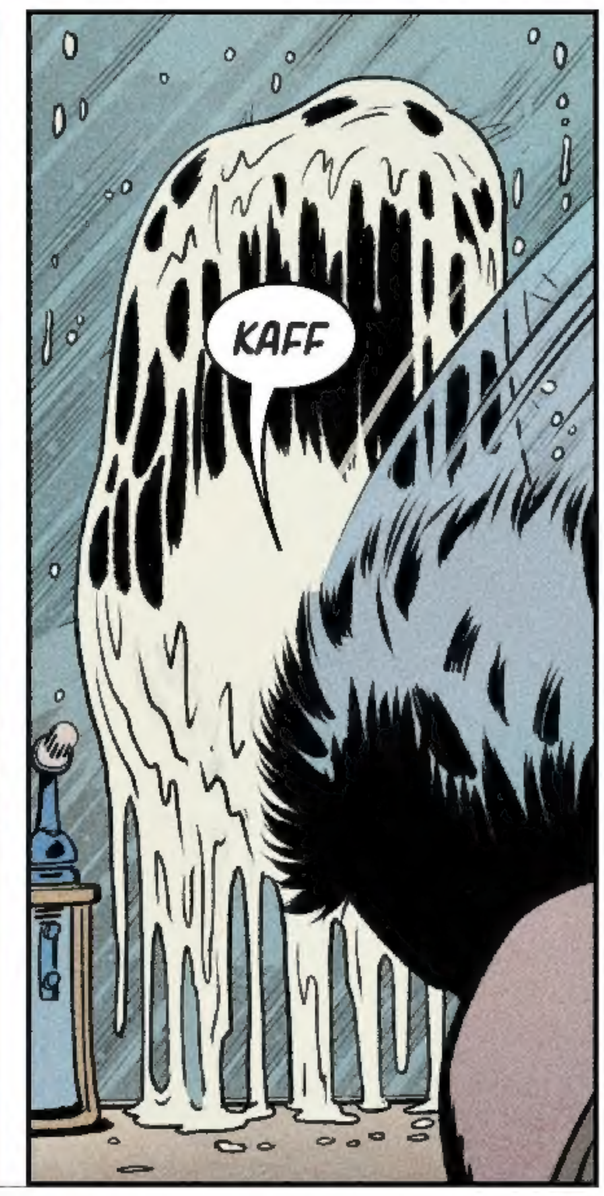
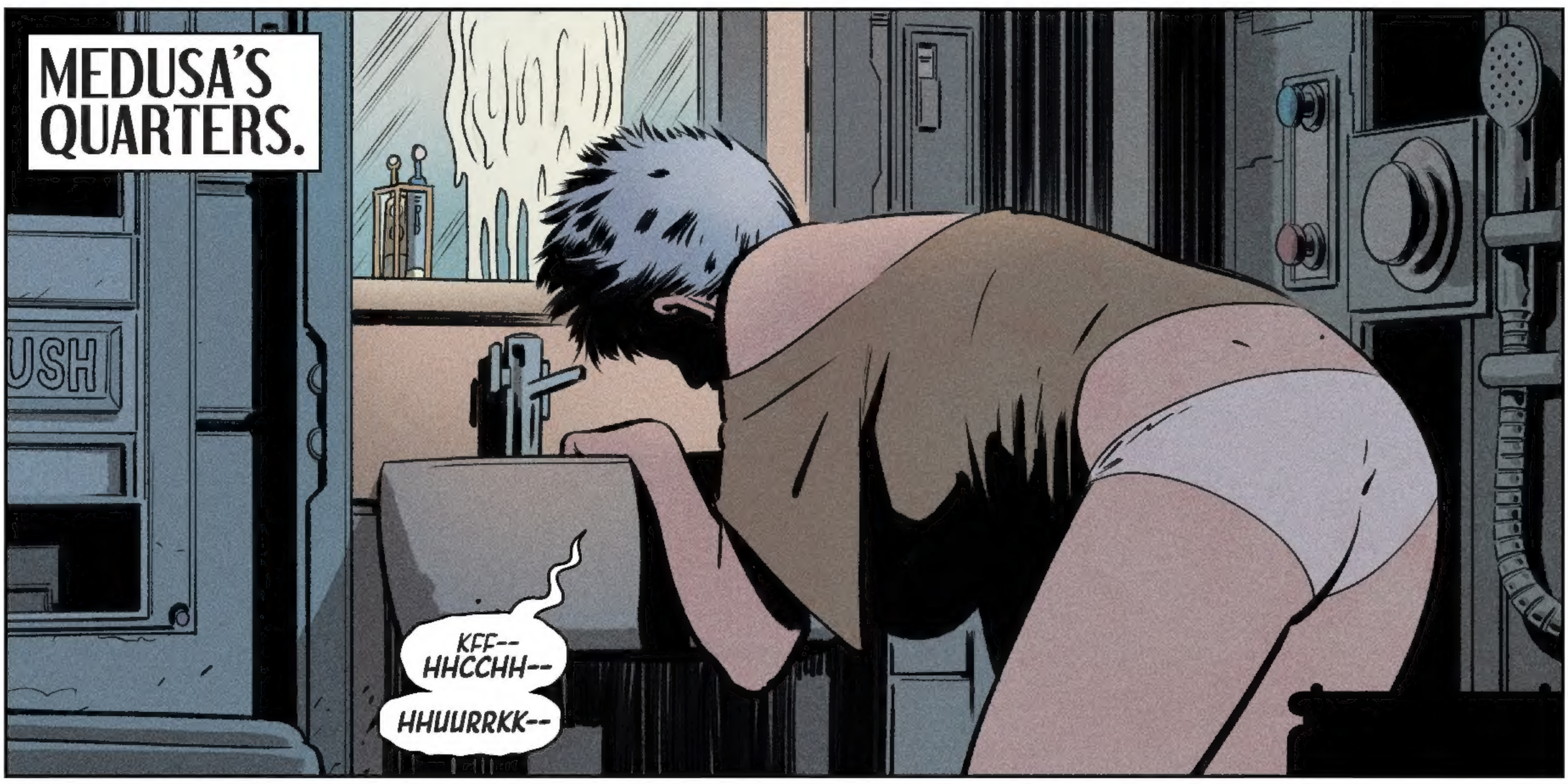
BEGIN UPLOAD

AAAHHHRR--



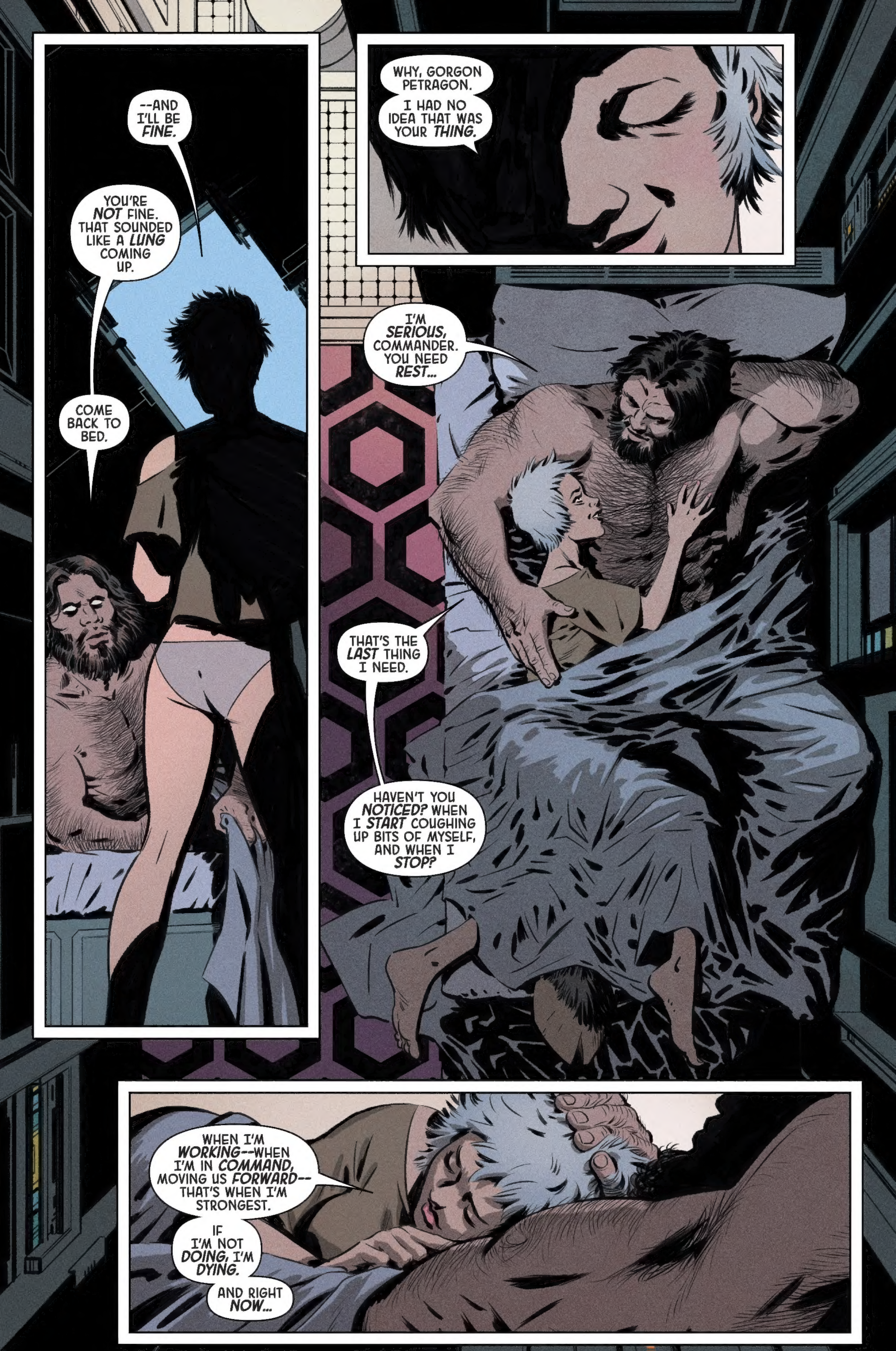



OR BOTH?



KAFF

MEDUSA'S QUARTERS.
KFF-- HHCCHH--
HHUURRKK--

--KAHH

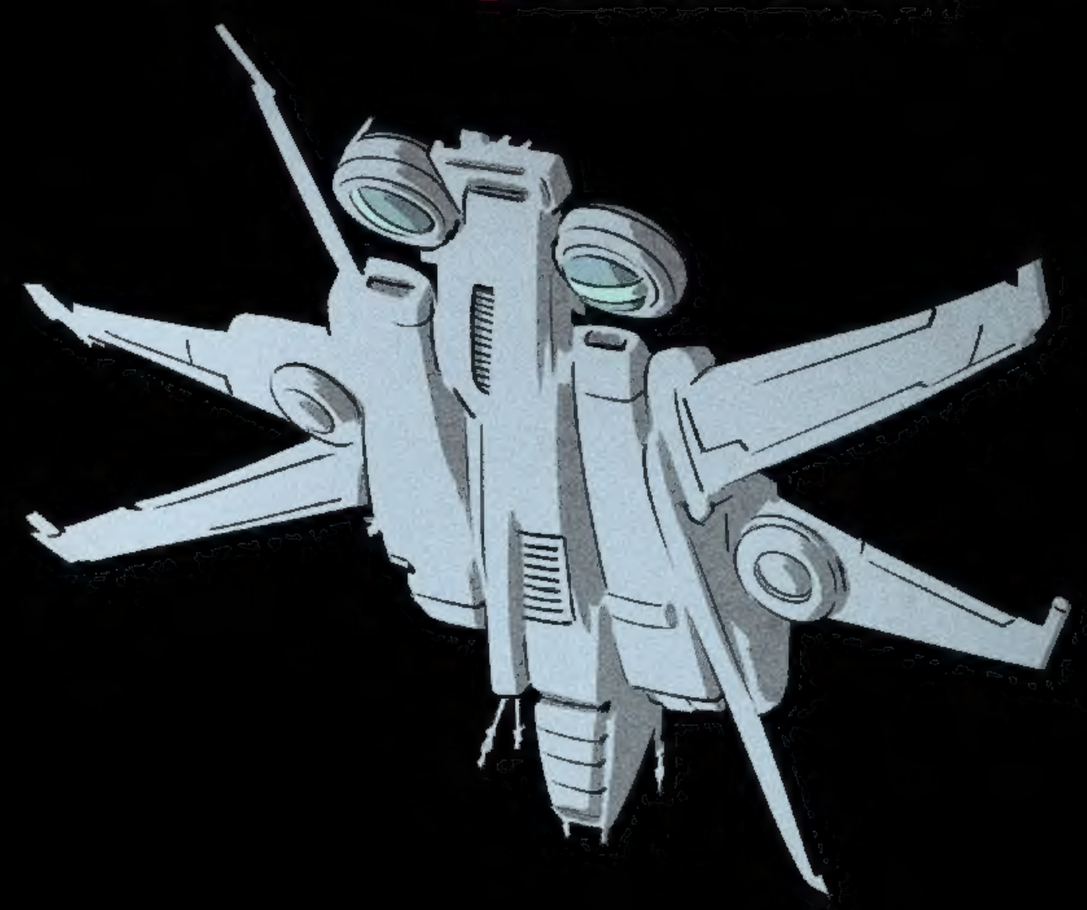
MEDUSA?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
GIVE ME--KAFF-- A MOMENT, GORGON--

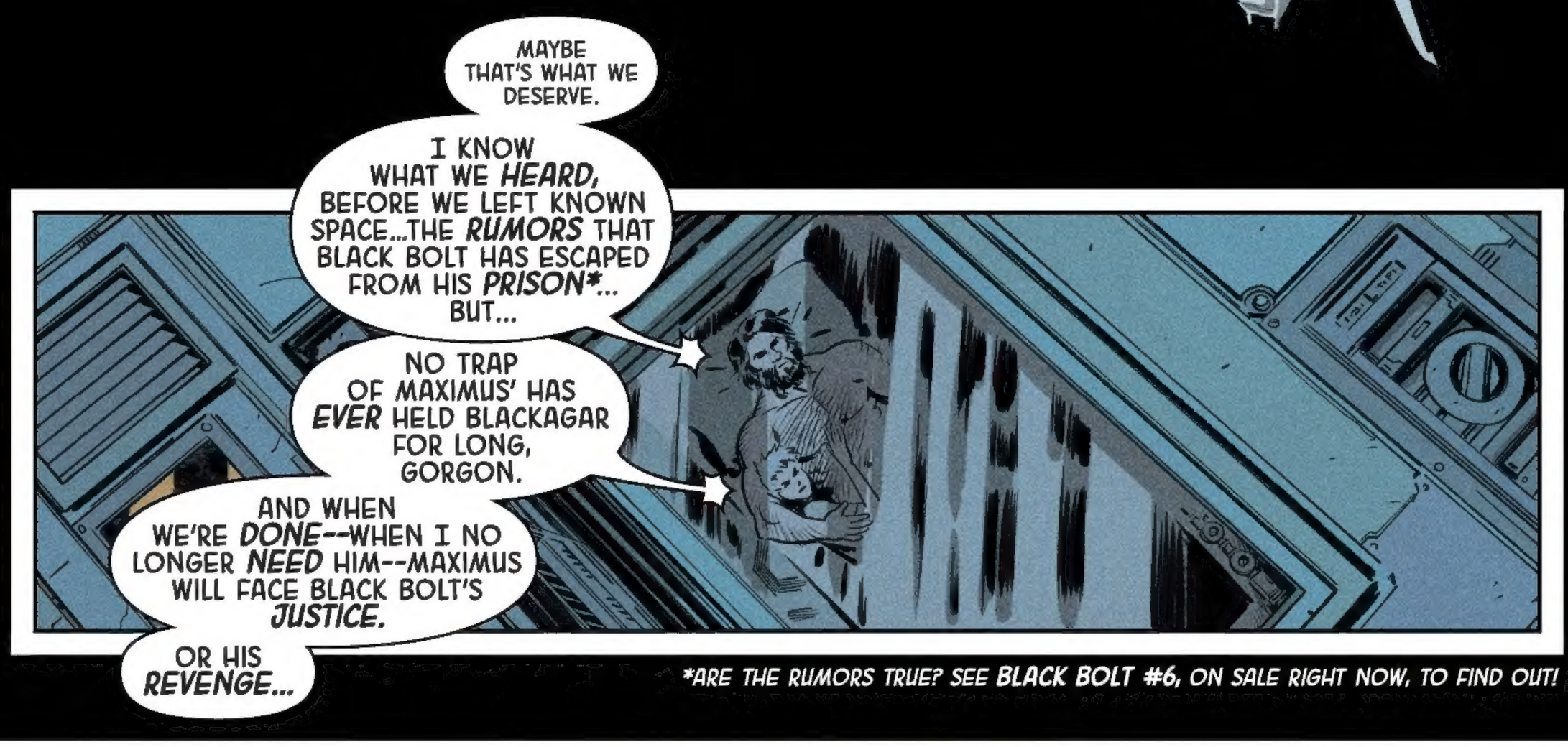

--AND I'LL BE FINE.
YOU'RE NOT FINE. THAT SOUNDED LIKE A LUNG COMING UP.
COME BACK TO BED.
WHY, GORGON PETRAGON.
I HAD NO IDEA THAT WAS YOUR THING.
I'M SERIOUS, COMMANDER. YOU NEED REST...
THAT'S THE LAST THING I NEED.
HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED? WHEN I START COUGHING UP BITS OF MYSELF, AND WHEN I STOP?
WHEN I'M WORKING--WHEN I'M IN COMMAND, MOVING US FORWARD--THAT'S WHEN I'M STRONGEST.
IF I'M NOT DOING, I'M DYING.
AND RIGHT NOW...

"WE'RE *BETWEEN GALAXIES,* WITH NO STAR TO GUIDE US. EITHER MAXIMUS IS *RIGHT,* AND HE'S MANAGED TO CALCULATE THE TRAJECTORY OF THE SKYSPEARS *BACK* TO THEIR *POINT OF ORIGIN*--

"--THE *'PROGENITORS'* WHO CREATED THE *KREE,* AND MAYBE HOLD THE SECRETS OF *TERRIGEN*--

"--OR HE'S *WRONG,* AND WE'RE ALL GOING TO *DIE* OUT HERE."





*ARE THE RUMORS TRUE? SEE **BLACK BOLT #6,** ON SALE RIGHT NOW, TO FIND OUT!

I KNOW.

THAT WAS WHY I BROKE IT OFF WITH JOHNNY, IN THE END--JOHNNY STORM. BECAUSE DESPITE ALL OUR ***GRAND PLANS*** FOR INHUMAN SOCIETY...

...BLACK BOLT WAS ***KING.***

AND I WAS ***QUEEN.***

"AND WE HAD OUR ***DUTY.***

"WE MENDED WHAT WE COULD BETWEEN US. I CALLED HIM MY ***HUSBAND*** AGAIN, AS IF THE WORD WAS A SPELL TO CONJURE ***MAGIC.***

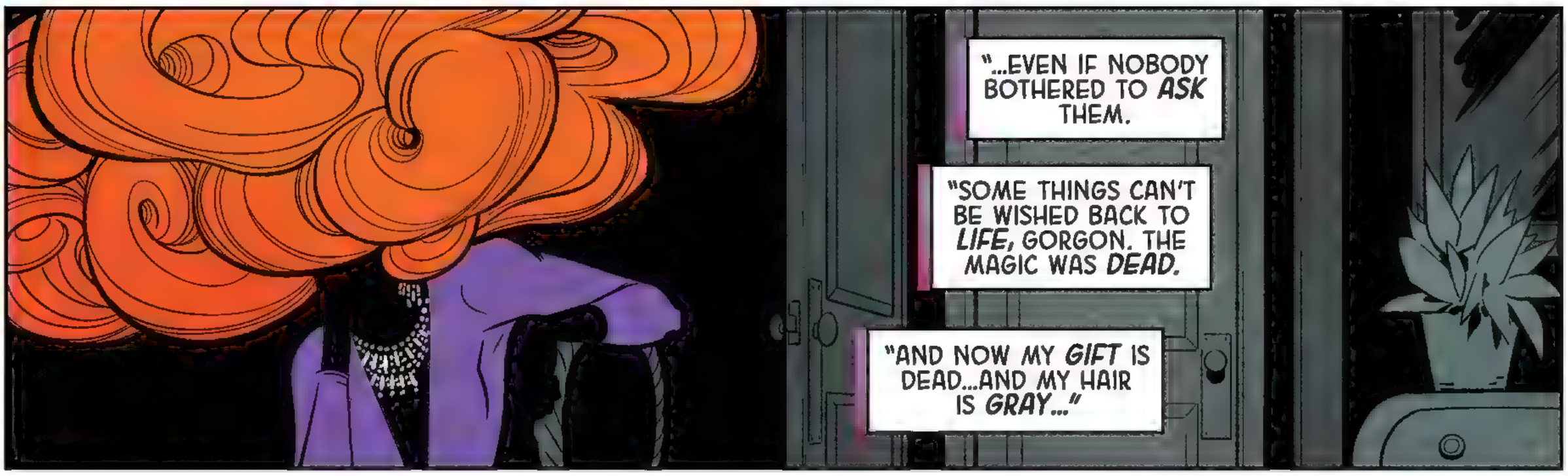
"I TOLD MYSELF ***ANYTHING*** COULD HAPPEN.

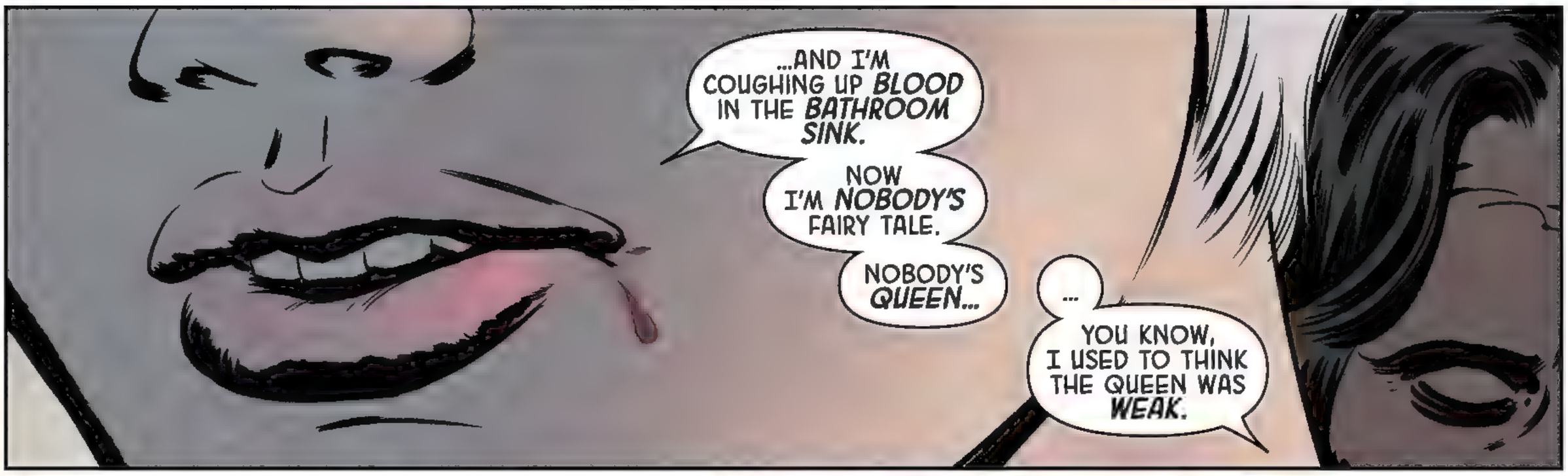
"AND HOW COULD IT ***NOT?***

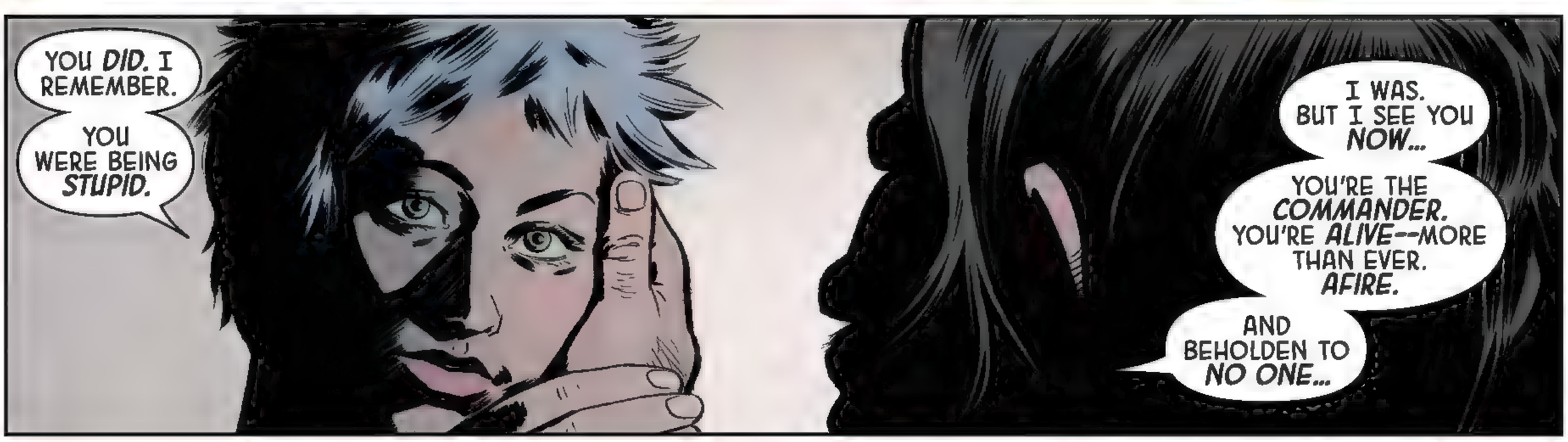
"WE WERE THE ***ROYAL ROMANCE.*** THE FAIRY TALE EVERYONE HELD IN THEIR HEARTS. THE ***PROMISE.***

"***THAT*** WAS OUR DUTY--A DUTY TO ***INSPIRE.***

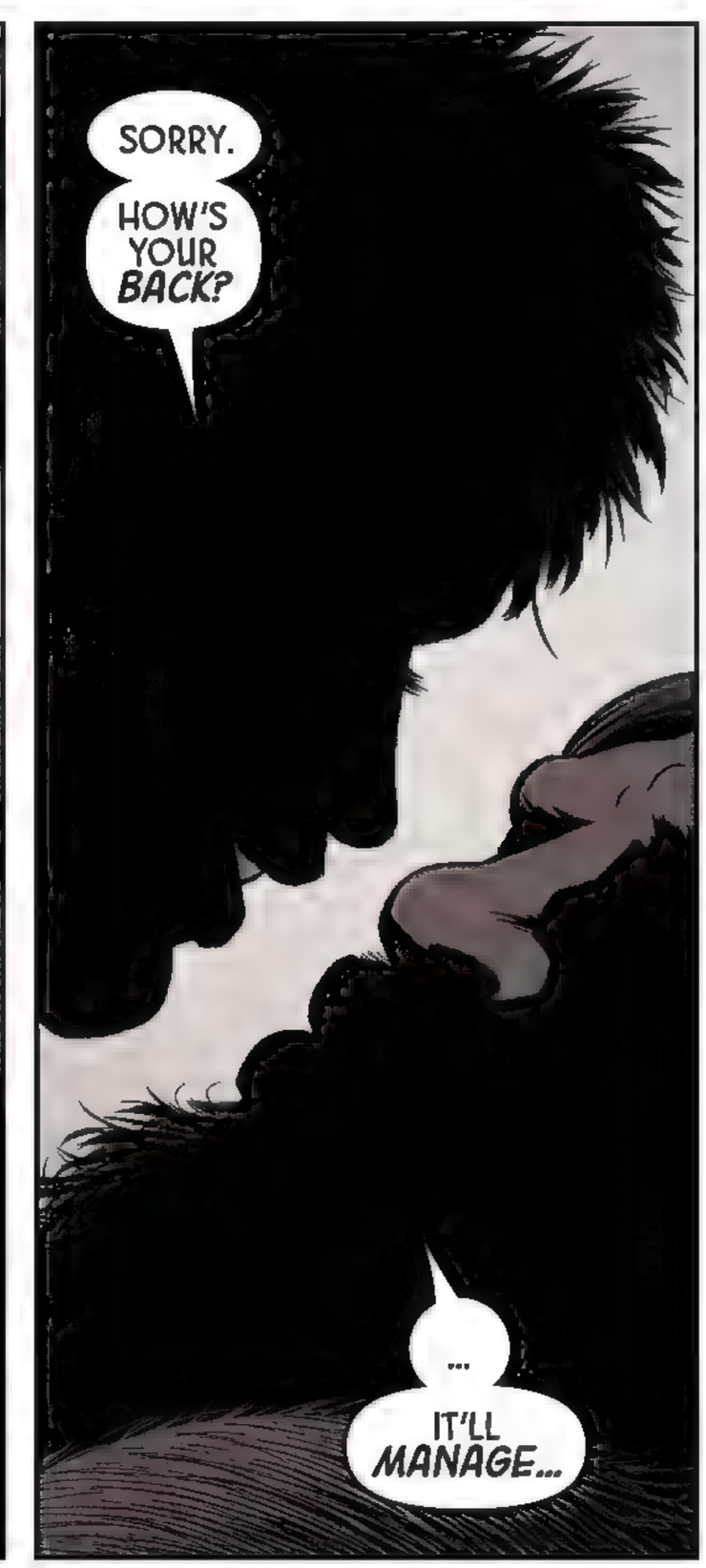
"BECAUSE ***EVERYBODY*** KNEW QUEEN MEDUSA AND KING BLACK BOLT ***HAD*** TO BE TOGETHER IN THE ***END...***


"...EVEN IF NOBODY BOTHERED TO ASK THEM.
"SOME THINGS CAN'T BE WISHED BACK TO LIFE, GORGON. THE MAGIC WAS DEAD.
"AND NOW MY GIFT IS DEAD...AND MY HAIR IS GRAY..."


...AND I'M COUGHING UP BLOOD IN THE BATHROOM SINK.
NOW I'M NOBODY'S FAIRY TALE.
NOBODY'S QUEEN...
...
YOU KNOW, I USED TO THINK THE QUEEN WAS WEAK.


YOU DID. I REMEMBER.
YOU WERE BEING STUPID.
I WAS. BUT I SEE YOU NOW...
YOU'RE THE COMMANDER. YOU'RE ALIVE--MORE THAN EVER. AFIRE.
AND BEHOLDEN TO NO ONE...

ONLY TO THE SHIP AND THE STARS. TO THE CREW AND THE MISSION.
AND TO MY HEART--RIGHT OR WRONG.
WHOOF--


SORRY.
HOW'S YOUR BACK?
...
IT'LL MANAGE...

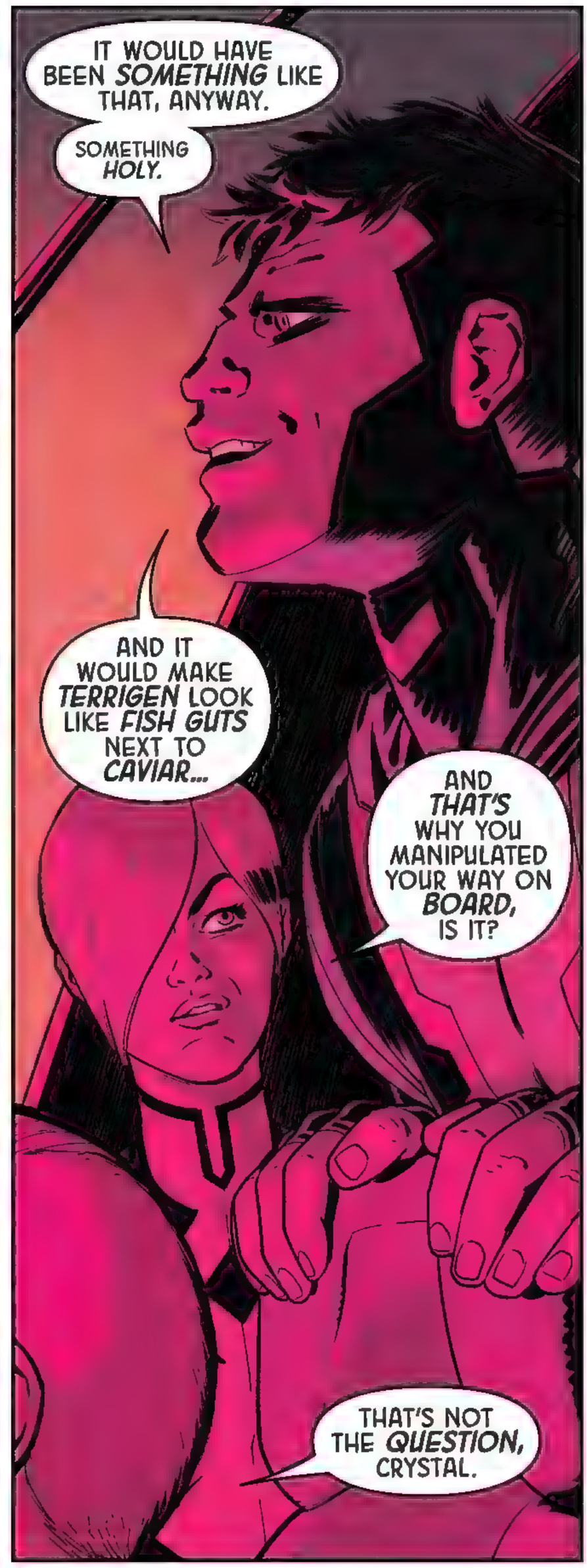
--SHUT UP.
I SWEAR, IF I FIND OUT THIS WAS YOU--
NOT POSSIBLE. SWAIN CANCELS MY POWERS OUT--AND VICE VERSA, SO IT'S NOT HER, EITHER.
"HOOF" AND "HAIR" ARE FREE AGENTS, CRYSTAL, LIKE IT OR NOT.
AND WHY DON'T YOU, ANYWAY? DON'T YOU WANT YOUR SISTER TO FIND LASTING HAPPINESS?

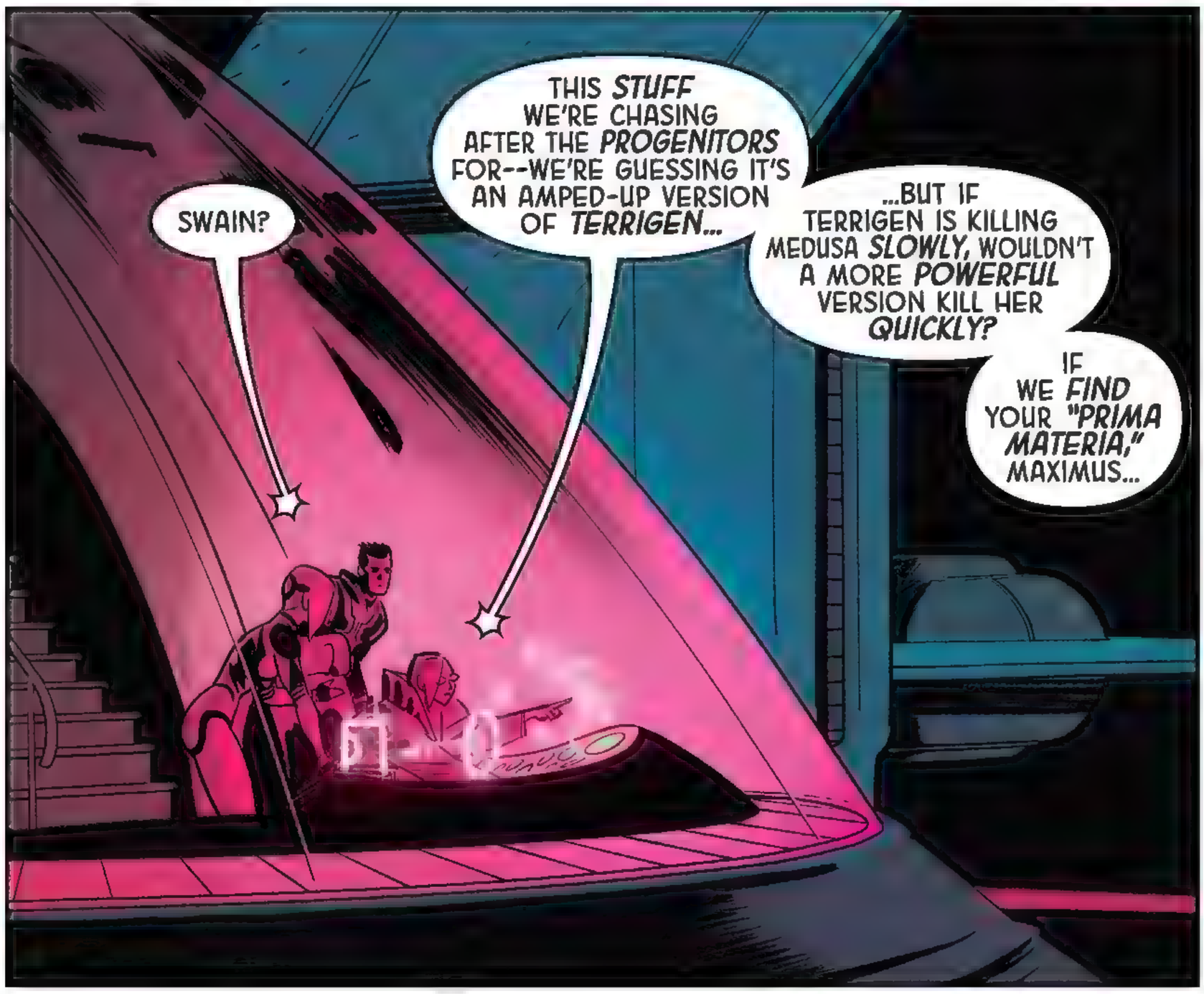
"LASTING HAPPINESS"? IF THAT'S A JOKE, IT'S NOT FUNNY.
MEDUSA'S DYING, MAXIMUS. DYING SLOWLY.
AND WE CAN'T EVEN DIAGNOSE WHAT IT IS SHE'S GOT, BECAUSE IT'S SOME MAGIC METAPHOR DISEASE, ACCORDING TO MARVEL BOY.
TERRIGEN TAKING ITS REVENGE ON HER FOR DESTROYING IT...
WELL... THAT'S TERRIGEN FOR YOU.
A STOPGAP, THROWN TOGETHER BY INHUMAN SCIENTISTS FROM WHATEVER CAME TO HAND--
--TRUST ME, I KNOW HOW THAT SAUSAGE IS MADE--
--BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE REAL STUFF.

THE ORIGINAL. THE GOLD OF THE UNIVERSE.
THE PRIMA MATERIA.
PICTURE THE SCENE. YOU'RE PREHISTORIC KREE. A BLUE NEANDERTHAL ON HALA'S VAST PLAINS, BEFORE HISTORY BEGAN ANYWHERE.
FORAGING FOR FOOD. SPEAKING IN GRUNTS. NO CULTURE, NO DREAMS OF INTERSTELLAR EMPIRE.
NO REACHING FOR GLORY...
...UNTIL GLORY COMES FROM THE SKY...
...AND REACHES FOR YOU.

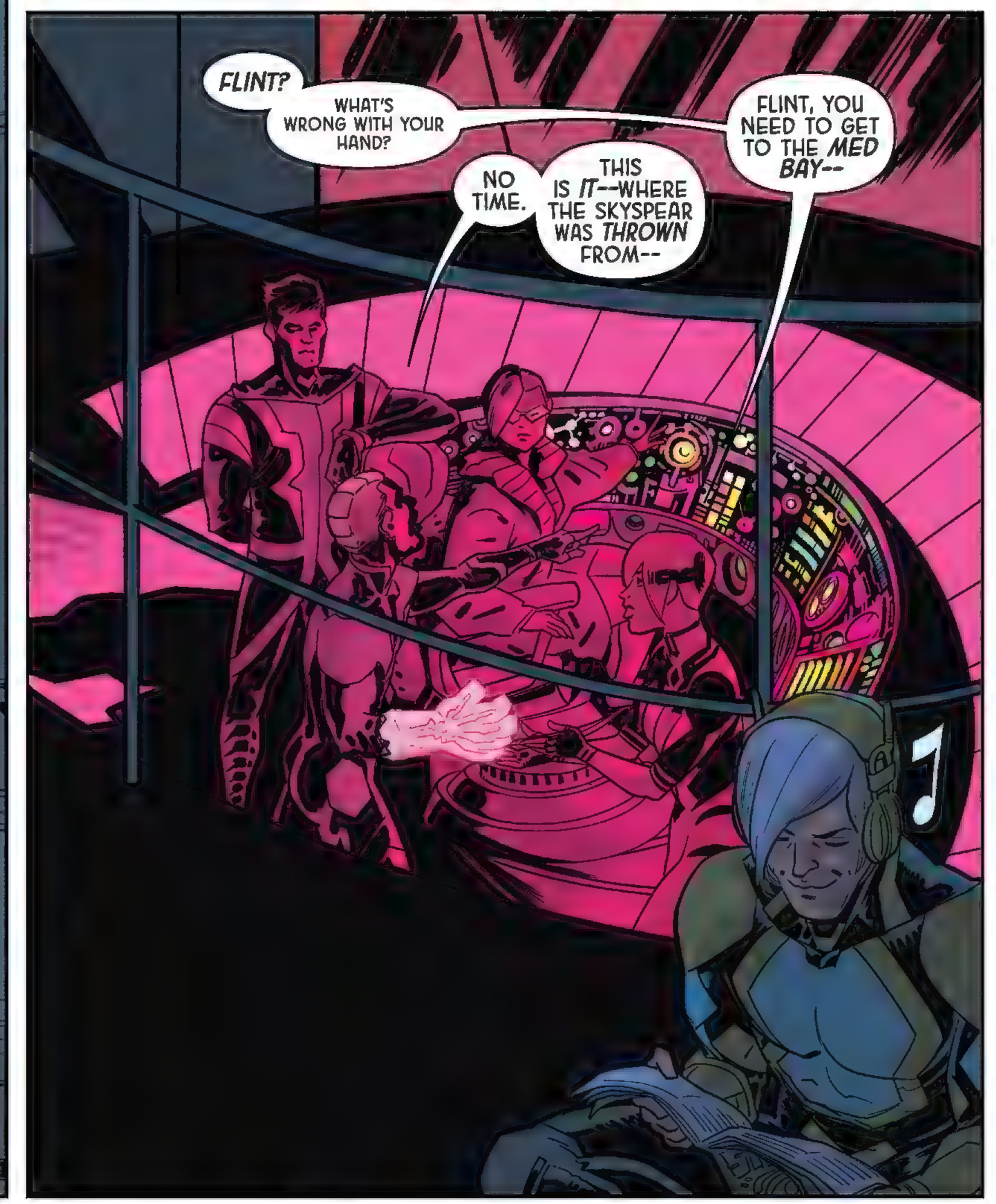
AND THEN YOU *WAKE UP.*

AAAUUUU



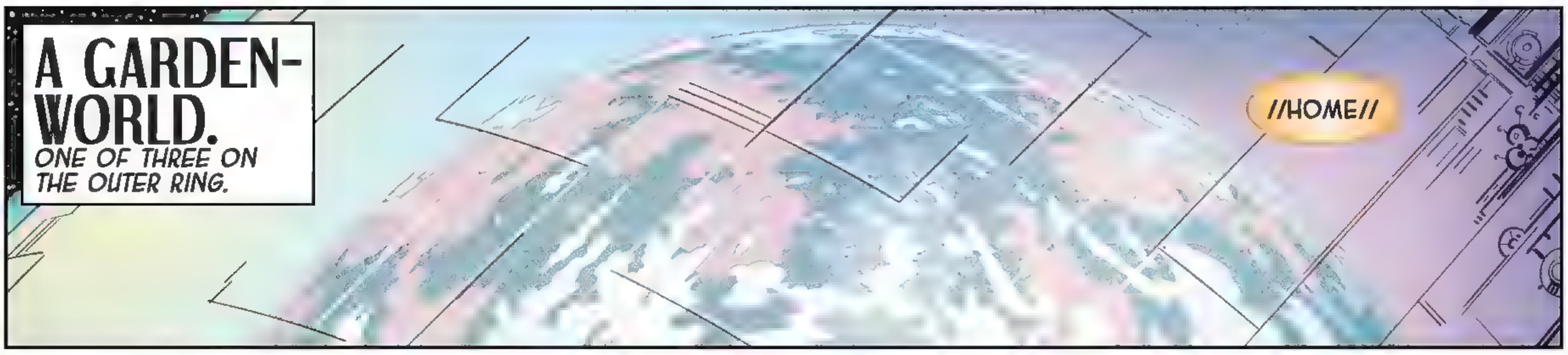


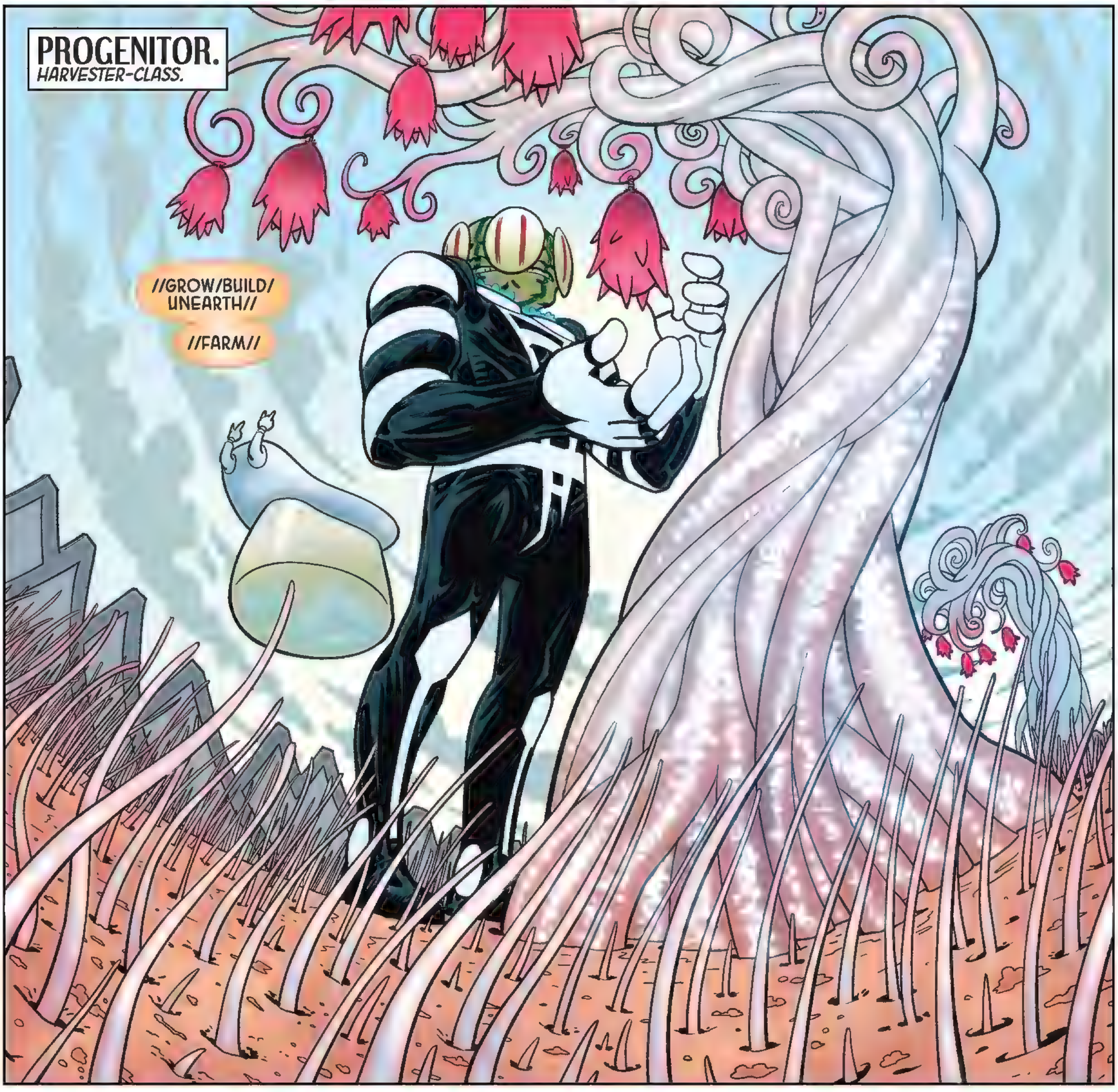
WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT.
WE'RE *HERE*, EVERYBODY.

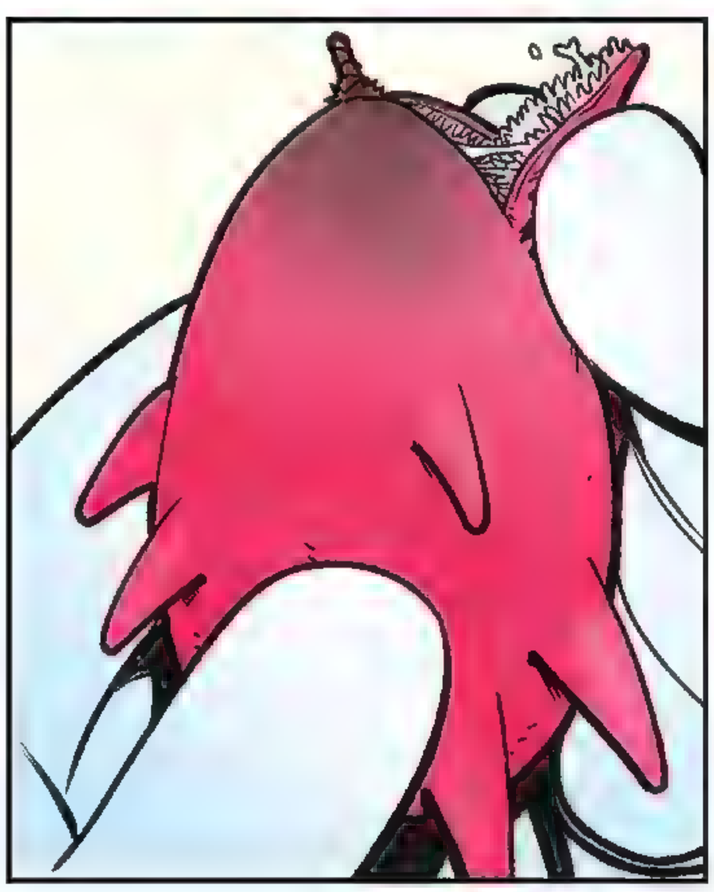

FLINT?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR HAND?
NO TIME.
THIS IS *IT*--WHERE THE SKYSPEAR WAS *THROWN* FROM--
FLINT, YOU NEED TO GET TO THE *MED BAY*--

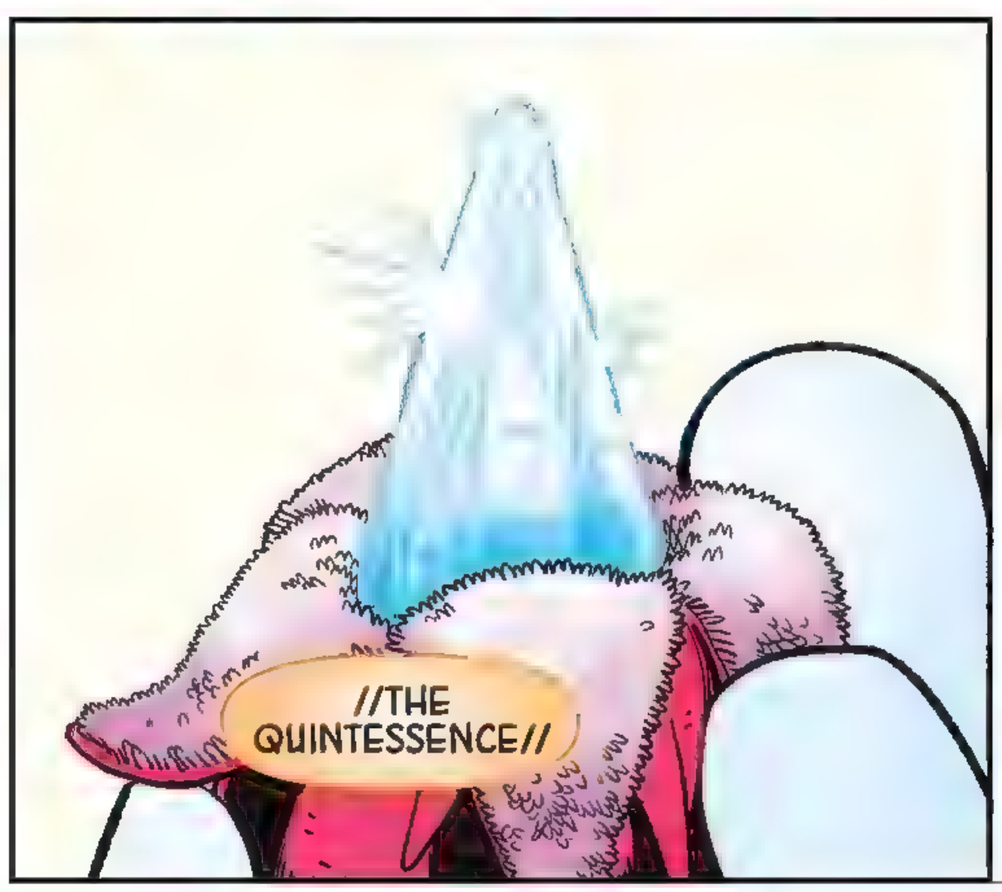
NO TIME, I SAID.
IT'S SHROUDED IN *CAMOUFLAGE*--SPACE DUST, BLOCKING THE LIGHT--BUT WHEN WE GET *CLOSE*--
YOU'RE *DELIRIOUS.*
THERE'S NOTHING *OUT HERE,* FLINT.
LOOK AT THE *SCANNERS*--THEY'RE NOT PICKING *ANYTHING* UP--
THERE'S YOUR *PROBLEM.* YOU'RE USING *SCANNERS*--I'M USING MY *EYES.*
TRUST ME...

THE WORLD FARM.
...WE'RE HOME.
...
HOME?


A GARDEN-WORLD.
ONE OF THREE ON THE OUTER RING.
//HOME//

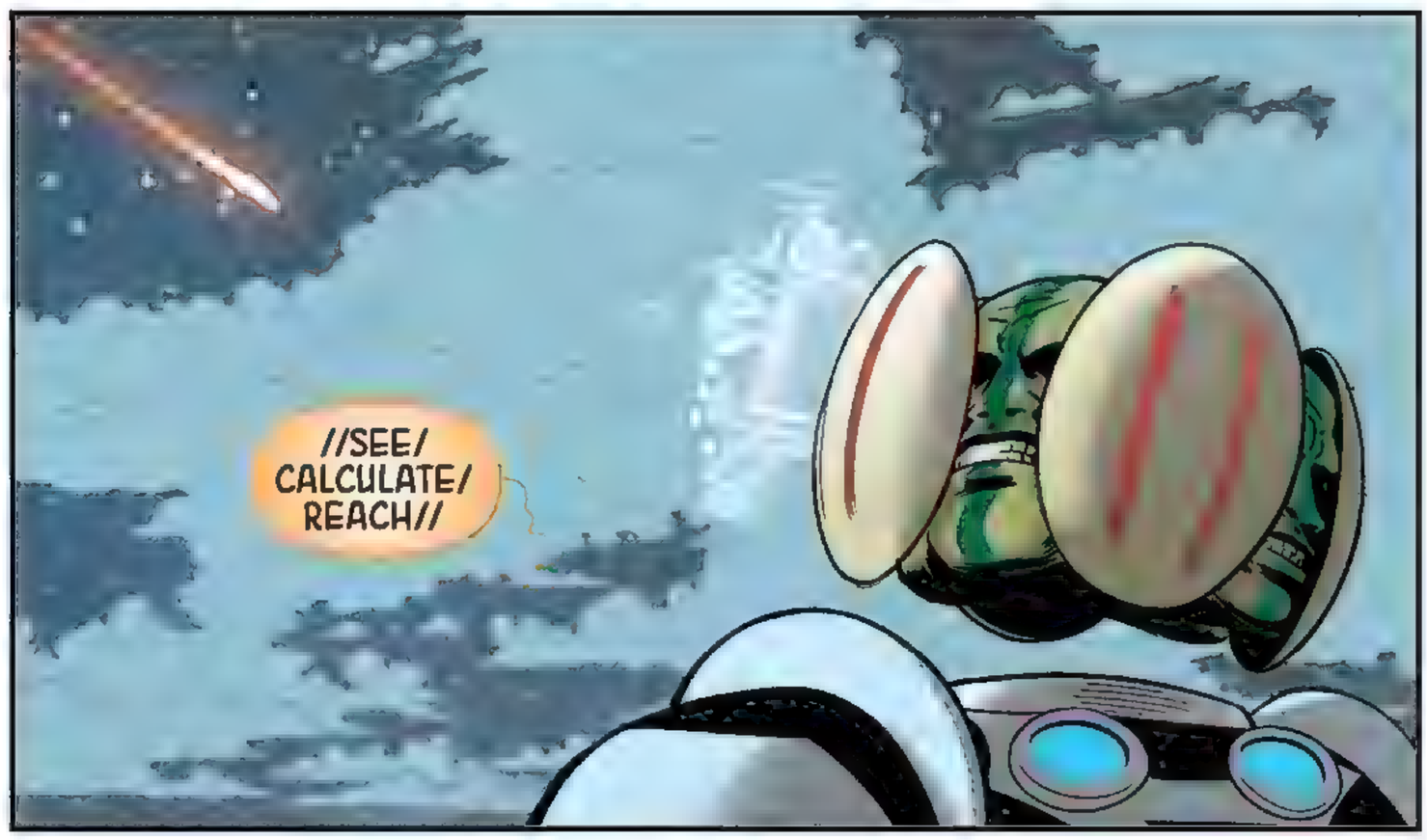

PROGENITOR.
HARVESTER-CLASS.
//GROW/BUILD/ UNEARTH//
//FARM//




//THE QUINTESSENCE//

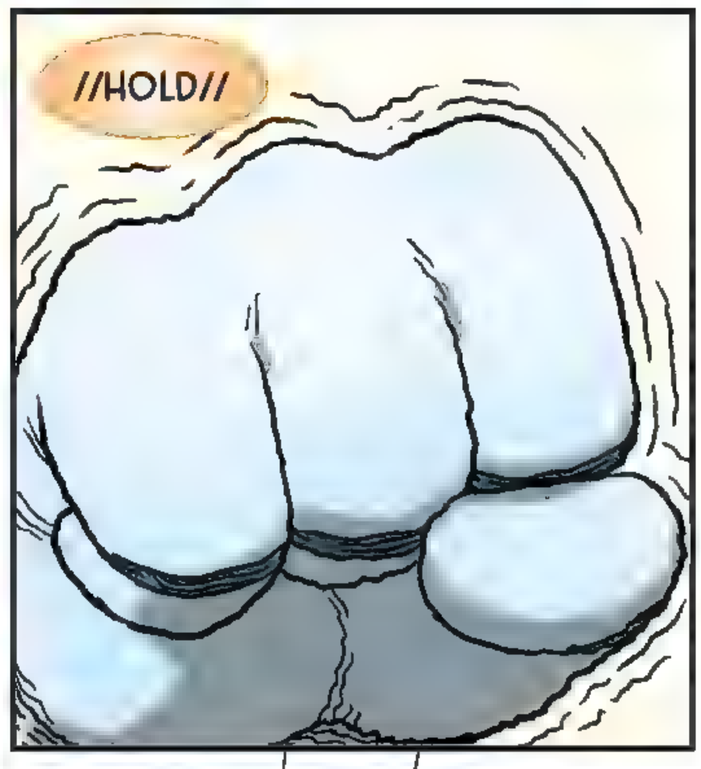
//?ERROR?//

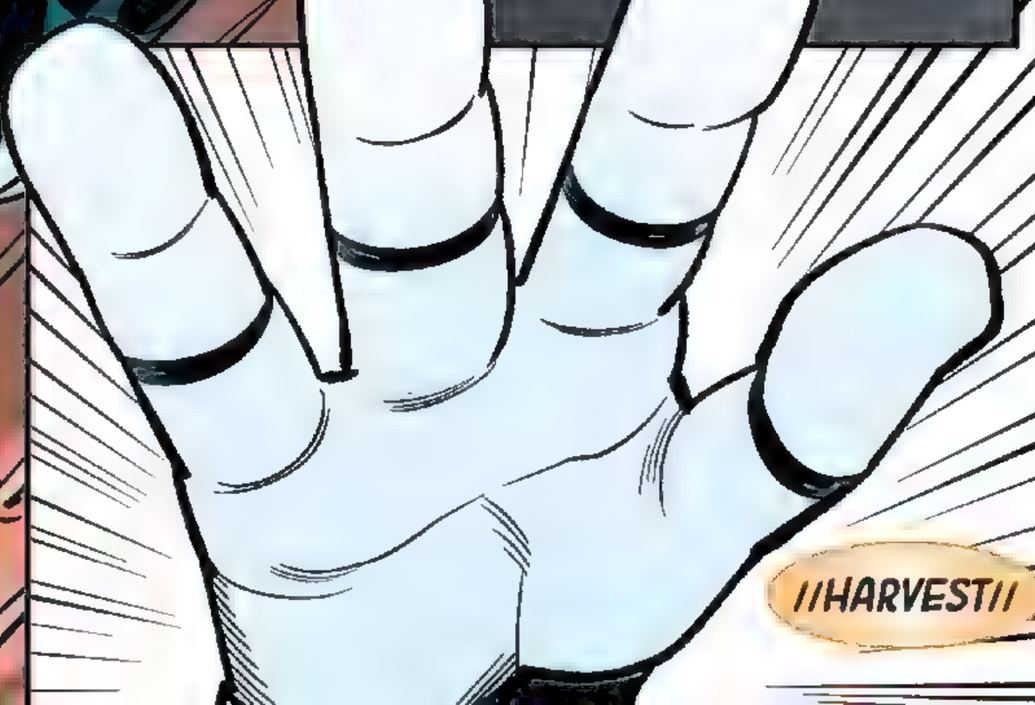
//??ERROR/
THREAT??//


//SEE/
CALCULATE/
REACH//

//CATCH//

SKIIRT


//HOLD//

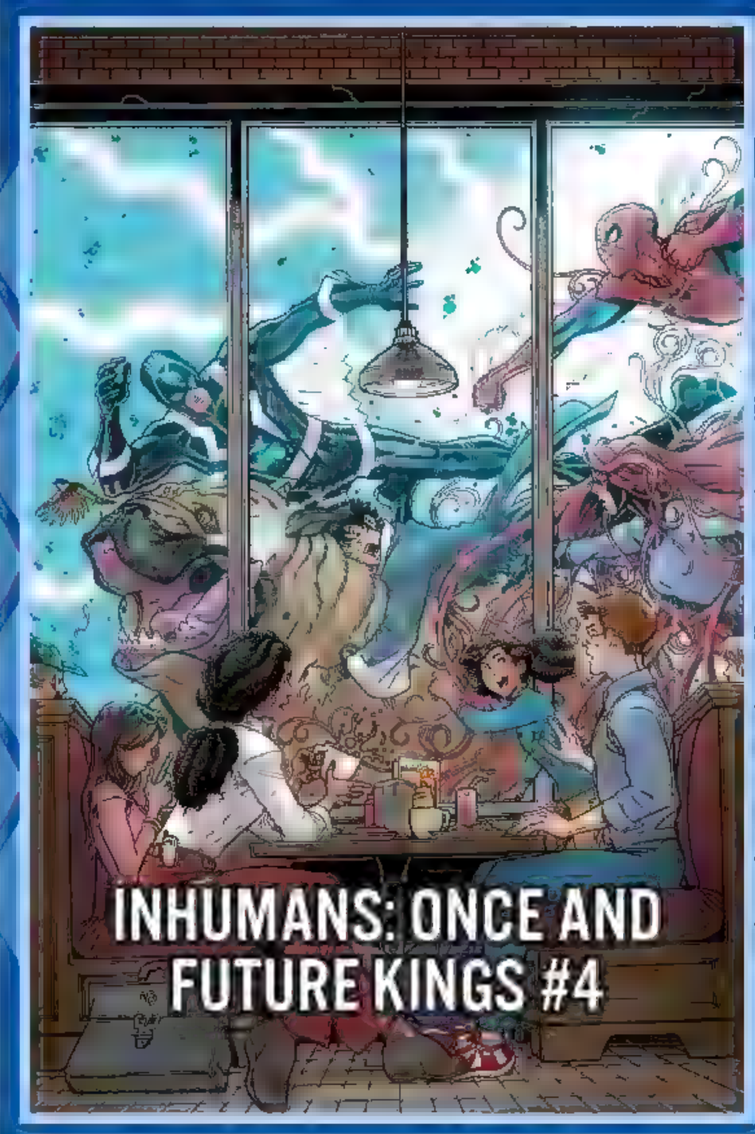

//HARVEST//

BOOM
//END THREAT//
TO BE CONTINUED...

ROYALS

NEXT: ROYALS #10

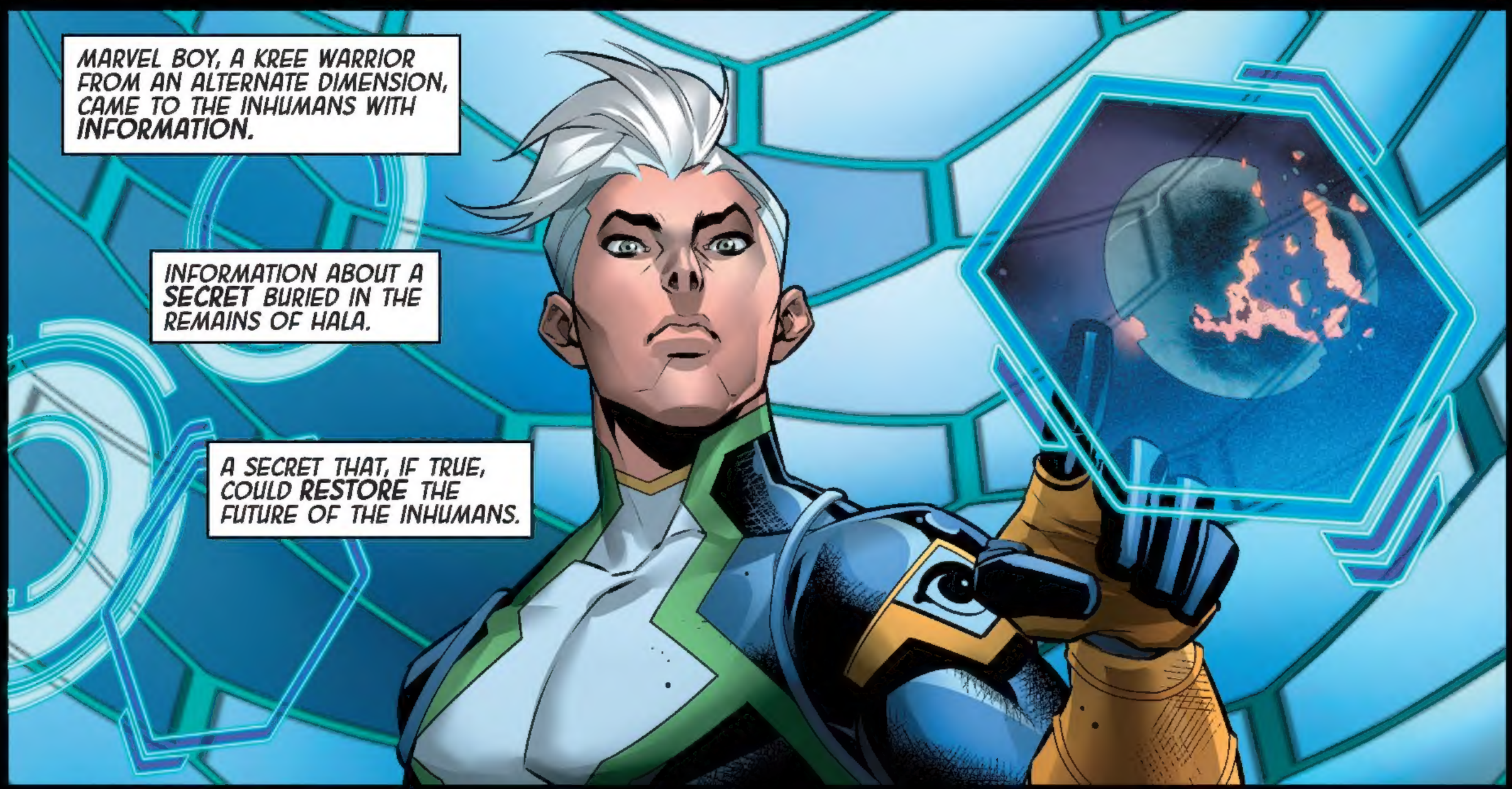
AND FOR MORE INHUMANS, CHECK OUT:



THE PLANET HALA.
BIRTHPLACE OF THE KREE EMPIRE...
...AN ANCIENT AND POWERFUL PEOPLE...
...LOCKED FOREVER IN A WAR WITH THE SKRULL EMPIRE.
THEIR WAR SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE...
THE KREE EXPERIMENTED ON HUMANS FROM EARTH, DESPERATE TO CREATE A SUPER-SOLDIER THAT WOULD HELP THEM DEFEAT THE SKRULLS.
IN SO DOING, THEY CREATED...
...THE INHUMANS!
THE KREE ABANDONED THEIR CREATIONS. BUT THE INHUMANS THRIVED, CREATING THEIR OWN SOCIETY IN THE CITY OF ATTILAN, LED BY THEIR ROYAL FAMILY FOR CENTURIES.
THEIR OWN EXPERIMENTS WITH THE MYSTERIOUS TERRIGEN MISTS GAVE THE INHUMANS UNBELIEVABLE POWERS.
HUMANKIND EVENTUALLY DISCOVERED THEIR NEIGHBORS. THEY LIVED IN PEACE, AND THE TERRIGEN MISTS CREATED NEW INHUMANS ON EARTH. BUT IN TIME...

...THE INHUMANS DISCOVERED THE TERRIGEN MISTS WERE POISONING EARTH'S MUTANT POPULATION.
THEIR QUEEN, MEDUSA, TOOK IT UPON HERSELF TO DESTROY THE TERRIGEN MISTS ONCE AND FOR ALL.
THERE WOULD BE NO MORE NEW INHUMANS.

MEDUSA ABDICATED HER THRONE.
THE INHUMANS WERE WITHOUT THEIR QUEEN.
BUT THEY WERE NOT WITHOUT SALVATION.


MARVEL BOY, A KREE WARRIOR FROM AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION, CAME TO THE INHUMANS WITH INFORMATION.
INFORMATION ABOUT A SECRET BURIED IN THE REMAINS OF HALA.
A SECRET THAT, IF TRUE, COULD RESTORE THE FUTURE OF THE INHUMANS.

SO MEDUSA, GORGON, CRYSTAL, MAXIMUS (DISGUISED AS BLACK BOLT), SWAIN AND FLINT LEFT EARTH WITH MARVEL BOY TO TRAVEL ACROSS THE STARS. THEY ARE THE INHUMANS' LAST HOPE. THEY ARE...
...THE
ROYALS
HOWEVER, LEGEND OF THEIR JOURNEY TELLS OF SEVEN WHO LEFT FOR THE STARS BUT ONLY SIX RETURNED...
ROBBIE THOMPSON WRITER
KEVIN LIBRANDA ARTIST
DONO SÁNCHEZ-ALMARA & PROTOBUNKER COLOR ARTISTS
VC'S CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER
KATHLEEN WISNESKI ASST. EDITOR
DARREN SHAN EDITOR

ZONE